

REMARKS

Claims 10-18 were previously pending in the application. This Amendment amends claims 10, 13 and 17 to correct informalities. Claims 11-12, 14 - 16 and 18 remain unchanged. New claim 19 is added. Claims 10, 15, and 19 are independent.

Allowed Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 15-18 are allowed and that claims 11-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

For the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that claim 10 also is allowable, and therefore, claims 10-18 should be allowed.

The Claimed Invention

An exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention, as recited by, for example, independent claim 10, is directed to a dishwashing machine, comprising a light source configured for illuminating the interior of the washing chamber of the dishwashing machine, the light source being mounted to one of the interior walls, thereby being disposed in the interior of the dishwashing machine interiorly of the door seal and not disposed on the door, the light source and being operably connected to the switch such that the light source is activated into an illuminated condition to illuminate the interior of the washing chamber of the dishwashing machine from within the washing chamber in response to the receipt of the electrical signal from the switch.

Another exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention, as recited by, for example, independent claim 19, is directed to a dishwashing machine, comprising a plurality of generally upstanding, interconnected interior walls forming a washing chamber; a door pivotable around a horizontal axis thereof and movable between a closed position and an open position for accessing the washing chamber; a door seal disposed intermediate the interior walls and the door to form a watertight washing compartment when the door is closed against the door seal; a switch on the door that generates an electric signal when a predetermined pivoting angle

of the door is reached as the door is being moved from the closed position to the open position; and a light source mounted to an interior surface of one of the interior walls and in the interior of the washing chamber, wherein the interior surface is interior of the door seal and not part of the door, wherein the light source is inside the watertight washing compartment formed when the door is closed against the door seal, and wherein the light source is electrically connected to the switch and illuminated in response to the electric signal received from the switch such that the light source illuminates the interior of the washing chamber of the dishwashing machine when the predetermined pivoting angle of the door is reached.

These features are important for providing an automatically illuminated light source disposed in the interior walls of the washing chamber interiorly of the door seal to fully illuminate the interior of the appliance when the access door is open to a predetermined angle. See, e.g., page 2, lines 25-32; page 8, lines 6-19.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burnett (U.S. Patent 6,295,004) in view of Lamb, Jr. (U.S. Patent 3,619,592).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 10 is directed to a dishwashing machine, comprising a light source configured for illuminating the interior of the washing chamber of the dishwashing machine, the light source being mounted to one of the interior walls, thereby being disposed in the interior of the dishwashing machine interiorly of the door seal and not disposed on the door, the light source and being operably connected to the switch such that the light source is activated into an illuminated condition to illuminate the interior of the washing chamber of the dishwashing machine from within the washing chamber in response to the receipt of the electrical signal from the switch.

These features are important for providing an automatically illuminated light source disposed in the interior walls of the washing chamber interiorly of the door seal to

fully illuminate the interior of the appliance when the access door is open to a predetermined angle.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the applied references teaches or suggests the features of independent claim 10.

The Office Action acknowledges that the Burnett reference (sic) does not disclose lights that are located other than on the door. Office Action at page 2, lines 20-21. To make up for the deficiencies of the Burnett reference, the Office Action asserts that Figure 3 of the Lamb, Jr. reference teaches a light source mounted to one of the interior walls and being disposed in the interior of the dishwashing machine interiorly of the door seal. The Office Action has not provided any support for this rationale other than to generally refer to Figure 3 of the Lamb, Jr. reference.

Contrary to the assertions in the Office Action, the Lamb, Jr. reference very clearly does not remedy the deficiencies of the Burnett reference. Indeed, Figure 3 of the Lamb, Jr. reference does not teach or suggest anything at all that is even remotely related to a light source being mounted to one of the interior walls, thereby being disposed in the interior of the dishwashing machine interiorly of the door seal and not disposed on the door, as recited in independent claim 10.

Instead, as shown in Figure 3, the Lamb, Jr. reference very clearly discloses that the trim member 26, which includes the fluorescent bulb 30, is mounted to the front frame 13 of the dishwasher, not the top wall 11, sidewalls 12, or backwall. The front frame 13 very clearly is not one of the interior walls of the dishwasher. Indeed, the Lamb, Jr. reference specifically defines the front frame 13 separately from the top wall 11, sidewalls 12, or backwall. See col. 1, lines 54-55, and col. 2, lines 1-7. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the Lamb, Jr. reference very clearly fails to disclose or suggest at least a light source being mounted to one of the interior walls, as recited in claim 10.

Moreover, as shown in Figure 3, the Lamb, Jr. reference very clearly discloses that the fluorescent bulb 30 is above the door seal 18 so that there is no exposure of the bulb to the washing solution or consequent need for special water-proof fixtures or

connections. The fluorescent bulb 30 is not mounted interiorly of the door seal 18. Thus, the Lamb, Jr. reference very clearly fails to disclose or suggest at least a light source being disposed in the interior of the dishwashing machine interiorly of the door seal, as recited in claim 10.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have had an apparent reason to combine the teachings of the Burnett reference and the Lamb, Jr. reference in the manner alleged because the Lamb, Jr. reference very clearly teaches away from any arrangement in which the light source is disposed in the interior of the dishwashing machine interiorly of the door seal, as recited in claim 10.

Instead, as explained above, the Lamb, Jr. reference explicitly teaches that the fluorescent bulb 30 should be “above the door seal 18, so that there is no exposure of the [bulb] to the washing solution or consequent need for special water-proof fixtures and connections.” See col. 2, lines 11-15; emphasis added. Hence, the Lamb, Jr. reference very clearly teaches away from any arrangement in which the light source is disposed in the interior of the dishwashing machine interiorly of the door seal, as recited in claim 10.

For at least these reasons, none of the applied references discloses or suggests the subject matter defined by independent claim 10.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

New Claim 19

New claim 19 is added. No new matter is added.

Independent claim 19 is directed to dishwashing machine, comprising a plurality of generally upstanding, interconnected interior walls forming a washing chamber; a door pivotable around a horizontal axis thereof and movable between a closed position and an open position for accessing the washing chamber; a door seal disposed intermediate the interior walls and the door to form a watertight washing compartment when the door is closed against the door seal; a switch on the door that generates an electric signal when a predetermined pivoting angle of the door is reached as the door is being moved from the closed position to the open position; and a light source mounted to an interior surface of one of the interior walls and in the interior

of the washing chamber, wherein the interior surface is interior of the door seal and not part of the door, wherein the light source is inside the watertight washing compartment formed when the door is closed against the door seal, and wherein the light source is electrically connected to the switch and illuminated in response to the electric signal received from the switch such that the light source illuminates the interior of the washing chamber of the dishwashing machine when the predetermined pivoting angle of the door is reached.

These features are important for providing an automatically illuminated light source disposed in the interior walls of the washing chamber interiorly of the door seal to fully illuminate the interior of the appliance when the access door is open to a predetermined angle.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the applied references teaches or suggests the features of independent claim 19.

As explained above, the Office Action acknowledges that the Burnett reference (sic) does not disclose lights that are located other than on the door. Office Action at page 2, lines 20-21.

The Lamb, Jr. reference very clearly does not remedy the deficiencies of the Burnett reference. Indeed, the Lamb, Jr. reference very clearly does not teach or suggest at least a light source mounted to an interior surface of one of the interior walls and in the interior of the washing chamber, wherein the interior surface is interior of the door seal and not part of the door, wherein the light source is inside the watertight washing compartment formed when the door is closed against the door seal, as recited in independent claim 19.

Instead, in stark contrast to the claimed invention, the Lamb, Jr. reference teaches a light source that is mounted to a front frame of the dishwasher at a location above the door and outside the watertight washing compartment.

As shown in Figure 3, the Lamb, Jr. reference very clearly discloses that the trim member 26, which includes the fluorescent bulb 30, is mounted to the front frame 13 of the dishwasher, not an interior surface of the top wall 11, sidewalls 12, or backwall. The front frame 13 very clearly is not one of the interior walls of the dishwasher. Indeed, the

Lamb, Jr. reference specifically defines the front frame 13 separately from the top wall 11, sidewalls 12, or backwall. See col. 1, lines 54-55, and col. 2, lines 1-7.

Moreover, as shown in Figure 3, the Lamb, Jr. reference very clearly discloses that the fluorescent bulb 30 is above the door seal 18 so that there is no exposure of the bulb to the washing solution or consequent need for special water-proof fixtures or connections. The fluorescent bulb 30 clearly is not mounted interiorly of the door seal 18 and clearly is not inside the watertight washing compartment formed when the door is closed against the door seal.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have had an apparent reason to combine the teachings of the Burnett reference and the Lamb, Jr. reference in the manner alleged because the Lamb, Jr. reference very clearly teaches away from any arrangement in which the light source is disposed in the interior of the dishwashing machine interiorly of the door seal, as recited in claim 10.

Instead, as explained above, the Lamb, Jr. reference explicitly teaches that the fluorescent bulb 30 should be "above the door seal 18, so that there is no exposure of the [bulb] to the washing solution or consequent need for special water-proof fixtures and connections." See col. 2, lines 11-15; emphasis added.

For at least these reasons, none of the applied references discloses or suggests at least a light source mounted to an interior surface of one of the interior walls and in the interior of the washing chamber, wherein the interior surface is interior of the door seal and not part of the door, wherein the light source is inside the watertight washing compartment formed when the door is closed against the door seal, as recited in independent claim 19.

Applicants respectfully request allowance of claim 19.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 10-19 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

/James E. Howard/

James E. Howard
Registration No. 39,715
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BSH Home Appliances Corporation
100 Bosch Blvd.
New Bern, NC 28562
Phone: 252-639-7644
Fax: 714-845-2807
james.howard@bshg.com